

CHEETAH CHATTER

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January 2021

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back! We hope that your holiday season was restful and refreshing and you were able to celebrate the season in a safe and healthy way with those in your household.

Elementary students across Ontario will be learning remotely the first week back to school, which is January 4-8, 2021. During this first week, students will be learning online with their teachers. When we return to our Cherrywood family in person on January 11, I would like to remind everyone that our protocols that have been in place since September continue to be in place. If you need a refresher, please review our [September newsletter](#).

On behalf of our entire staff, best wishes for a happy and healthy 2021!

PROTOCOL REMINDERS

As we welcome our students and families back, this is a great opportunity to review the protocols that remain in place. We continue to require masks for staff and students in Grades 4-8 and recommend masks for our younger students. We will continue to maintain our physical distancing protocols and handwashing and sanitizing routines. We also need to ensure all families are actively [screening your children](#) and ensuring anyone with symptoms stays home. These protocols are in place to ensure the safety of our school community and we thank you for following these protocols and reminding your child about them as well.

PARENT ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL

One of our goals is to maintain a school environment that minimizes the number of potential contacts for students and staff. For that reason, parents should not enter the school. Pick-up and drop-off of students can only happen outside of the school. Parents will not have access to classrooms and unscheduled visits are not permitted. We thank you for cooperating with our protocols to keep all members of our school community safe.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Remote Learning at Home	Jan. 4-8
French Immersion Registration Begins	Jan. 4
Return to In Person Learning.....	Jan. 11
PA Day.....	Jan. 15
DSBN Academy Open House	Jan. 20
Family Literacy Day	Jan. 27
PIC Speaker Series	Jan. 27
Kindergarten Online Registration Begins	Jan. 28
'Snowed-In' Day.....	Jan, 29

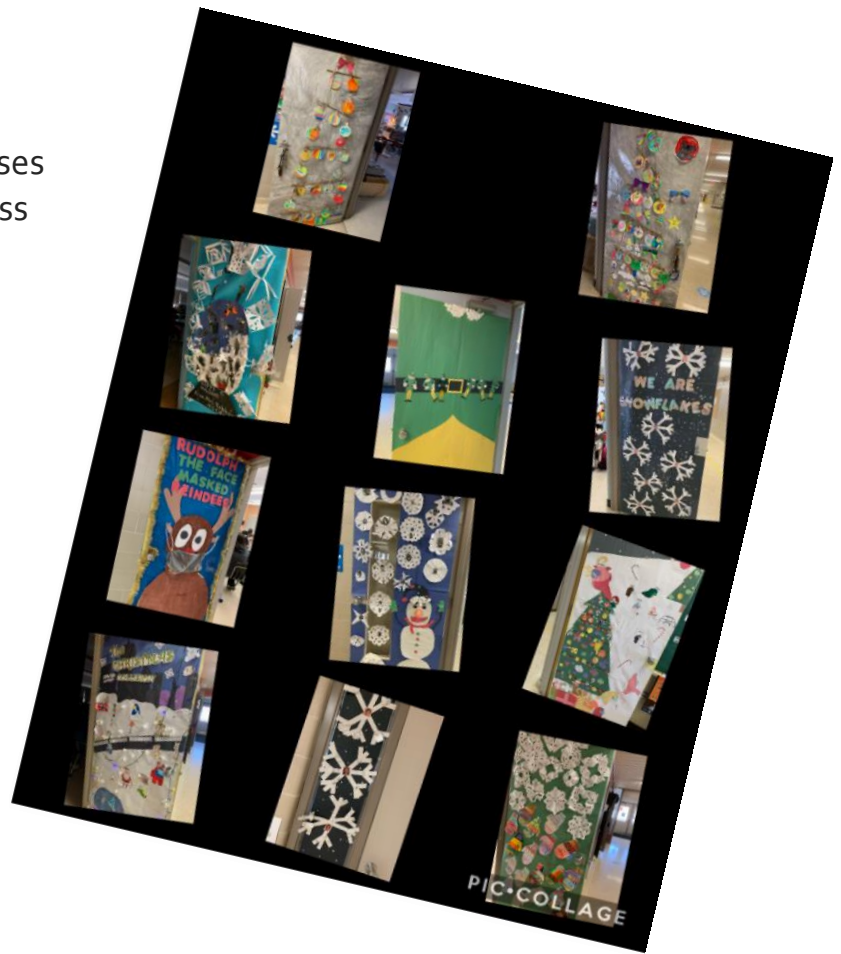
PA DAY

On Friday, January 15 all DSBN schools will be closed for a PA Day in which teachers will be engaged in assessment and evaluation activities.



HOLIDAY DOOR SHOWCASE

During the month of December, our classes created holiday themed doors! Each class showcased their door to everyone in our school in a virtual door tour!!



DREAMBOX LEARNING

DreamBox Learning Math is an online program with educational games that are individualized for your child, adapting the curriculum just for them. It's a fun, effective math learning environment. Unlike other math games that often sacrifice learning for entertainment, DreamBox delivers a rich, tailored learning experience. All of our students have access to a DreamBox account. Please contact your child's teacher for further information.

PARENT'S ROLE IN KEEPING SCHOOLS SAFE

Everyone has a role to play in keeping families safe and reduce the spread of COVID-19. It is the responsibility of parents and caregivers to assess their children daily before sending them to school. We ask parents to use this link: [Ontario Ministry of Education Covid-19 School and Childcare Screening Tool](#) to screen their child(ren) daily. The screening tool will provide direction and information to determine if students should attend school, remain home, or seek medical advice.

Additionally, parents must have a person available to pick up their child right away, should they become sick during school. We thank our parents for being diligent with following the screening guidelines and being available to pick up your child when needed!

WINTER WEATHER REMINDERS

We remind students to bundle up and dress appropriately for outdoor play this winter. Except in extreme cases, such as when Niagara Public Health issues Extreme Cold Weather Alert, recess and lunch breaks will continue outdoors to provide our children a much-needed change of pace and scenery. Niagara Public Health will issue a cold weather alert when the temperatures are -15°C or when weather conditions are severe enough to warrant alerting the community to the risks involved with prolonged exposure to the outdoors, such as a blizzard or wind chill warning. Depending on the wind chill factor, outdoor breaks may be shortened as appropriate.

Students **are not kept in at recess due to illness** as fresh air and exercise are essential to a healthy mind and body. If your child is well enough to be at school, we consider them well enough to be outside. If your child is properly dressed, they will be able to enjoy the colder weather and time outside. We feel very strongly that if the child is too ill to go out for recess, it would be in the child's best interest to remain home for the day. If you believe your child is an exceptional case, please contact Ms. Cocco to discuss the situation.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

There are times in Niagara when weather conditions are so poor that we must cancel student transportation, and/or close schools to preserve the safety of students and staff.

The decision to cancel transportation and/or close schools is not taken lightly; a variety of factors are considered when making this choice. To learn more about how these decisions are made, please go to <https://www.dsbnschools.org/inclementweather>.

Transportation Cancellations:

Information about transportation delays and cancellations are posted to <https://portal.nsts.ca/Cancellations.aspx>. When transportation is cancelled, information is shared before 6:00 am on the day of the cancellation. There are times when transportation is cancelled, but schools remain open. If, on those days you feel it is best for your child to stay home, please report your child's absence <https://dsbn.org/safearrival/> so we can make sure they are safe at home.

School Closures:

When the decision to close schools is made, it refers to all schools: both in-person and virtual schools. School closure information is shared before 6:00 am on the day of the school closure. You will find it on dsbn.org, all school websites, DSBN social media, and local media share the news widely as well.

Student Work on School Closure and Transportation Cancellation Days:

For elementary students - On days where transportation is cancelled and/or schools are closed, please visit your child's [school website](#) and click on the "Learn From Home" button. There you will find optional asynchronous learning resources.

For secondary students – Students will be able to access online materials for their courses. If it is a culminating activity day, special arrangements will be made and communicated to students centrally.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Do you know a child who was born in 2017? If so, spread the word that Kindergarten registration is almost here! Our Kindergarten online registration starts January 28. Please visit the [DSBN Kindergarten registration link](#) for more details and to download a copy of DSBN's book, "Barkley's First Day".

DSBN ACADEMY: VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE COMING SOON

Learn about the DSBN Academy at the Virtual Open House on **Monday, February 8, 2021 at 6:00PM!** Join us to find out:

- How this unique program prepares students to attend, and succeed at, college and university
- What extra opportunities are offered and how your child can benefit
- If the DSBN Academy is a good fit for your child



The DSBN Academy is a Grade 6-12 public school designed to support and empower students to be the first in their family to graduate from college or university. Staff and students are committed to the belief that, with hard work, all students can achieve their dreams.

From January 11-29, Grade 5 and 6 students will participate in a Virtual Roadshow during class time to learn more about the DSBN Academy and everything it has to offer. More information about Registration and the Virtual Open House will be shared in January 2021

Online registration opens on **JANUARY 7, 2021** at [ACADEMY.DSBN.ORG/APPLY](https://academy.dsbn.org/apply). Registration will close on **FEBRUARY 15, 2021**. Limited spots available.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY TO DSBN ACADEMY?

- Student must live within the Niagara Region
- Student is entering Grade 6, 7 or 8 in September 2021
- Student would be the first in their family to graduate from a college or university program
 - If a sibling has attended post-secondary but the parent(s)/guardian(s) have not, the student is still considered a First-Generation Student
- Student is achieving current grade level expectations or just below
- Student has demonstrated the potential for achieving "good" or "excellent" learning skills
- Student is willing to attend a school that may be out of their community with free transportation provided
- Student understands there are mandatory after-school academic supports and *ENCORE* programs
 - After-school *ENCORE* options include: Mixed sports, Board games, Photography, Yoga, Makerspace, Choir, Reading, and many more!
- Families understand that the DSBN Academy is a single-track pathway beginning in Grade 9 (academic level only)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT: Derek.Harley@dsbn.org - Elementary Principal

GRADE 1 FRENCH IMMERSION REGISTRATION

Registration for the French Immersion program (starting September 2021) offered at Prince Philip School (3112 Dorchester Road, Niagara Falls) is open to all students in Year 2 (Senior) Kindergarten.

If you want your child to develop a high proficiency and fluency in Canada's two official languages, French Immersion has a great deal to offer. Students in French Immersion take the same subjects as those in the English Grade 1 program. Children are introduced to the French language through repetition, gestures and songs. In the 21st century, our goal for language learning is **authentic communication**. Students learn to listen, speak, read and write in French for real-life purposes.

Registration will be open January 4th to February 16th, 2021.

For more information about French Immersion in the DSBN please visit:

<https://www.dsbn.org/programs-services/french-immersion> or speak to your school principal.

'SNOWED IN' DAY – JANUARY 29

On January 29, we will have 'Snowed In' Day. What do you wear to stay warm on a cold, snowy January day? Wear your most comfortable sweatpants, your favourite warm fuzzy hoodie, sweater or socks or a pair of warm winter pajamas. Wear your most comfortable clothes to stay warm and cozy on a January winter day. Please do not bring blankets or stuffed animals to school.

FAMILY LITERACY DAY THEME: TRAVEL THE WORLD TOGETHER!

Family Literacy Day takes place every January 27th to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. Since 1999, thousands of schools, libraries, literacy organizations and other community groups have taken part in the initiative. ABC creates free learning and promotional resources for anyone that wants to get involved. Taking time every day to read or do a learning activity with children is crucial to a child's development, improving a child's literacy skills dramatically, and can help a parent improve their skills as well.

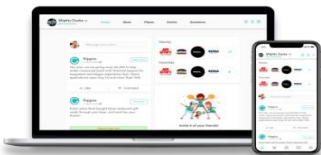
On January 27, we encourage your family to 'Travel the World Together'. Use your imagination to go exploring and travel the world together as a family – you never know what you'll learn! Plan your dream trip, learn about another culture and open your mind to the world.

FlipGive

CHRISTMAS MIGHT BE OVER, BUT THE FUNDRAISING IS JUST GETTING STARTED.

Support **CHERRYWOOD ACRES** by purchasing everyday items such as coffee, gas and groceries. A percentage of each dollar spent through Flip Give will go directly to our school.

STEP 1:



Go to
flipgive.com
or download

STEP 2:

Create your **FREE**
personal **FlipGive**
account



STEP 3:

Search **Cherrywood Acres Public School**
Join the team using invite code: **TGX5V9**

STEP 4:



Purchase **gift cards** or **shop online** through the website or mobile app.

CONNECT WITH US!

In our busy lives, events can sometimes be overlooked. Technology allows us multiple ways to connect with families. The following is a list of ways we use to connect with families to ensure all families are aware of the many events happening throughout the year.

SCHOOL WEBSITE - <http://cherrywood.dsbn.org>

Please take some time to visit the Cherrywood Acres Public School website. Our website includes current newsletters, school calendars, code of conduct, school council information, a school year calendar and bell times.

SCHOOL MESSENGER

Using the School Messenger program, important updates and information will be shared through a phone call and/or email as they become available. If you are not receiving these phone calls and emails, please check your contact information with the office to ensure we have the most current information and that you are subscribed to receive emails. For School Messenger to be it's most effective, it is imperative that we have up-to-date phone numbers and email addresses.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

All newsletters will be posted to the school website and sent via School Messenger through email on the first school day of the new month.